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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 **EXPEDITED PROCEDURE EXAMINING GROUP**

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

12:14

KIT YENG LIM JEFF W. MOEHLENBRUCK

Serial No.: 10/023,911

Filed: December 18, 2001

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD TO STABILIZE AND REPAIR AN INTERVERTEBRAL DISC

Confirmation No.: 4817

Group Art Unit: 3732

Examiner: Anuradha Ramana

Attorney Docket: 2103.014100/RFE

(SBI-100)

CUSTOMER NO. 45488

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116; RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED SEPTEMBER 17, 2004

MAIL STOP AF Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to MAIL STOP AF, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE 37 C.P.R. § 1.6(d)

1450. Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, facsimile number 1-703-872-9306, on this 16th day of October, 2004.

Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered in the captioned patent application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Applicants submit the foregoing amendments to place the case in even better condition for allowance or appeal.

This paper is submitted in response to the final Office Action dated September 17, 2004, for which the three-month date for response is December 17, 2004.